



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

S: 1 Feb 00
1 Apr 00

MCHO-Q (40)

19 JAN 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MEDCOM RMCs/MEDCENS/MEDDACs

SUBJECT: AMEDD-Wide Implementation of the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs (DOD/VA) Low Back Pain (LBP) Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG)

1. The DOD/VA Acute LBP Clinical Practice Guideline will be implemented in all Army Medical Department (AMEDD) facilities by 1 Apr 00. System-wide implementation of this guideline will improve the quality of care for patients with low back pain. It will also decrease orientation and education costs by avoiding piece-meal implementation of the guideline.

2. To kick off the AMEDD system-wide implementation of the LBP CPG, there will be a satellite broadcast on 17 Feb 00, 1300-1600 EST (see Enclosure 1). Medical treatment facility (MTF) commanders will ensure their LBP CPG teams are present at this broadcast. The broadcast includes:

- a. An introduction by the Army Surgeon General highlighting the need for evidence based management of acute low back pain.
- b. A presentation by Department of Defense (DOD) practice guideline champions detailing key points of the guideline.
- c. A short presentation highlighting how the tool kit can facilitate implementation.
- d. A step-by-step plan for proceeding with implementation at your facility.

3. This CPG is targeted for the primary care provider. It was adapted for use in the federal system from nationally developed, evidence-based practice guidelines by a multidisciplinary team of the four federal organizations (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Veterans Health Administration). LTC Fran O'Connor, LTC David Polly, and LTC James Leech led the Army's Acute LBP Guideline team.

4. Implementation materials were included in the LBP Tool Kit mailed to each commander, Regional Medical Command and MTF. This tool kit was developed with the input of primary care providers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, ergonomics, and other health care personnel.

SUBJECT: AMEDD-Wide Implementation of the Department of Defense/ Department of Veterans Affairs (DOD/VA) Low Back Pain (LBP) Practice Guideline

5. The success of this guideline depends wholly on its effective implementation in each primary care clinic at every MTF. Local practice guideline champions and primary care action teams should carry out these implementation functions. The form at Enclosure 2 provides guidance on team membership, along with a grid to list your team members. Forward the names of your MTF's team champion and team facilitator to the MEDCOM Quality Management Directorate NLT 1 Feb 00. An implementation manual developed to guide CPG team activities is at Enclosure 3. Quality improvements achieved by the MTF LBP process improvement teams will be monitored regularly by the MEDCOM. Each MTF should perform small scale monitoring as part of its Quality Management/Utilization Management activities.

6. I suggest local action teams be afforded a daylong off-site planning meeting during which they can formulate their team's implementation strategy and action plan and then share that plan with other MTF implementation teams. The recommended planning process and worksheets to support preparation of an action plan are incorporated in the implementation manual. Your MTF's plan for implementation of the LBP Practice Guideline at your facility will be due to the MEDCOM Quality Management Directorate by 1 Apr 00.

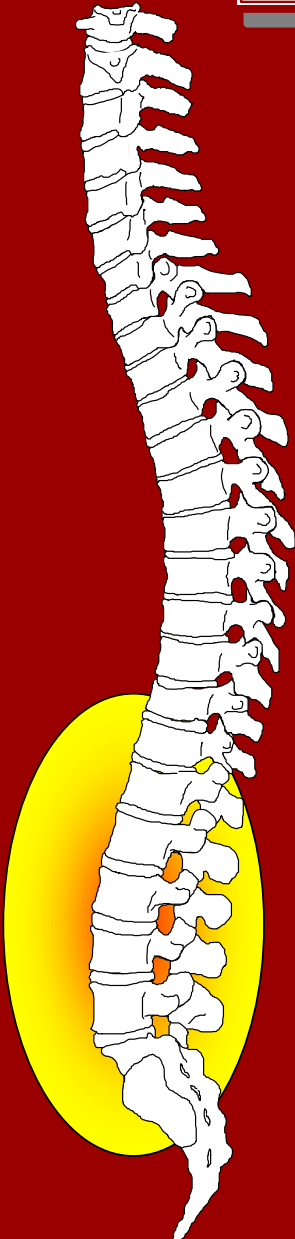
7. Our point of contact is LTC Kathy Dolter, Chief, Utilization/Outcomes Management Division and Practice Guideline Project Officer, Directorate of Quality Management, DSN 471-6195 or Commercial (210) 221-6195.

3 Encls
as


RONALD R. BLANCK
Lieutenant General
Commanding

Implementing the DoD/VA Low Back Pain Clinical Practice Guideline

Satellite Broadcast



For: Primary Health Care Providers
Practice Guideline Teams
Quality Managers

Date: Thursday, 17 February 2000
1300-1600 Eastern Standard Time

Where: Available by satellite broadcast
at your local facility.

Website Individuals and CME & Site
Registration: Satellite Coordinators
Register on-line @
<http://www.tech-res-intl.com/lowback>

Additional Information: For further information contact:
Mr. Terrence Lee, USACHPPM
DSN 584-2464 or
Commercial (410) 436-2464
Or at the AMEDD Website:
<http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/qmo>

Sponsored by U.S. Army Medical Command
and the U. S. Army Center for
Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine



Identify the Right Mix of People for the Implementation Team

The right team is absolutely crucial for successful implementation of a clinical practice guideline. As you prepare for the satellite broadcast, consider who you need to include on your low back pain guideline implementation team. A maximum of 8-10 members for your total team is suggested.

You will want:

- A credible champion to lead the team.
- A facilitator who is experienced in group facilitation and who knows how to keep all team members involved in the process.
- Someone familiar with your data systems.
- Representatives of the people involved in the care of low back pain patients: the primary care providers, the specialist(s) who receive referrals, the nurses, techs, aides, and the receptionists who do initial patient intakes.
- A leader from every location where you will be implementing the low back pain guideline.

Please use the following grid to identify team members.

Forward the names of the team champion and team facilitator to MEDCOM, LTC Kathryn Dolter, by the suspense date of 1 February 2000.

Team Member Position	Name
MTF name:	
Physician guideline champion	
Group process facilitator (overall and MTF)	
Clinic NCOIC or senior enlisted staff	
Utilization Management POC	
Other(s) Physical Therapy Community Health (CHN)	

Click [here](#) to view enclosure 3 – Implementation Manual developed to guide CPG team activities.